



cancelled memory

the libertarian attempt to re-legitimize the dictatorship

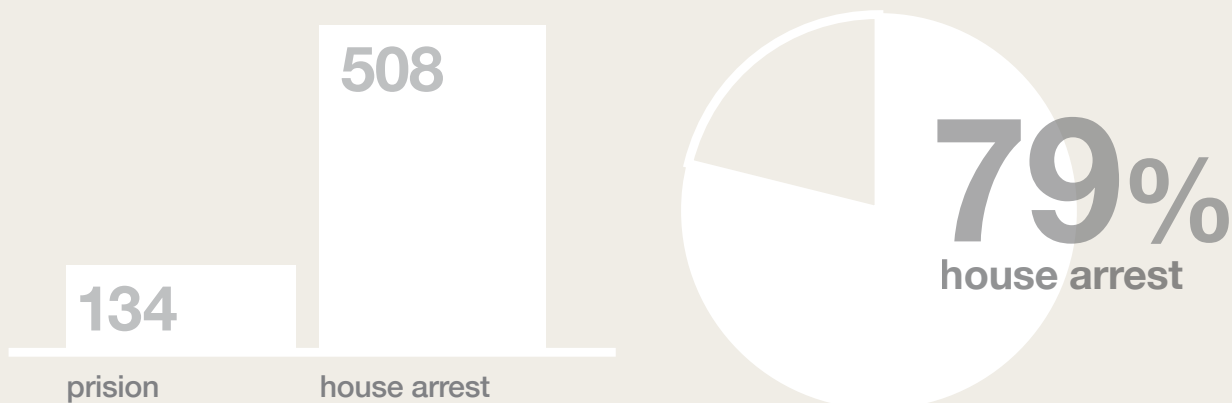
anceled memory

the libertarian attempt to
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The decision to cancel policies of memory, truth, and justice has been part of the current government's agenda since the electoral campaign; in fact, it can be traced back to the formation of the presidential ticket. With the passing months, this goal translated into actions: defunding, closing lines of work, and firing of personnel. But there is more to it than that.

One faction within the national administration aims to reshape the social narrative of the dictatorship. Official statements that vindicate clandestine and illegal repression. Praise for the pardoning of military leaders. Visits to those convicted of torture and murder. These actions seek to re-legitimize the National Reorganization Process, reintroduce the notion that victims "must have done something," and frame the pursuit of memory, truth, and justice as an overreach that victimizes the perpetrators.

convictions



In Argentina, 1,187 individuals have been convicted of crimes such as kidnapping, torture, and murder as part of the systematic extermination plan. Today, 508 of those convicted are serving their sentences under house arrest; 134 are in prison. Another 500 were investigated but were either acquitted or otherwise left out of the criminal investigations.

1. convictions

Since the justice process resumed in 2004, several groups have pressured for the release of those involved in the repressive apparatus, viewing the trials as ideological vengeance. Initially, they sought impunity. Later, they questioned the judicial process to secure the release of those convicted. The current Vice President, Victoria Villarruel, has been a prominent advocate for these demands.

the government has

In recent months, [several actions](#) have put us on alert:

- President Javier Milei [praised the pardons](#) granted in 1989 and 1990 by former [President Carlos Menem](#).
- Vice President Villarruel encouraged seeking a "[legal solution](#)" for the detainees.
- The head of state lawyers, Rodolfo Barra, [praised](#) the impunity laws and the pardons.
- Security Minister Patricia Bullrich [confirmed](#) there are detainees "without cause" and that "[imprisonment] has become an act of revenge."
- [Defense Ministry](#) officials visited high-ranking members of the military and police repressive structures imprisoned for crimes against humanity.
- Six deputies from La Libertad Avanza [met](#) with a group of convicts at the Ezeiza penitentiary complex, including [Alfredo Astiz](#). Deputy Beltrán Benedit referred to them as "former combatants against Marxist subversion."

archives

Judicial and historical research on documentation produced by state bureaucracies during the dictatorship is crucial for reconstructing events and responsibilities.

the government has

- Dismantled the Documentary Survey and Analysis Team for [Armed Forces archives](#).
- Shut down the working table on intelligence documents related to human rights violations, which operated in the former Federal Intelligence Agency.
- Failed to appoint a new head to the National Memory Archive, which safeguards the [Conadep](#) archive and other valuable documents.

sites

In Argentina, there were 814 locations used for detention, torture, and disappearance. Many have been converted into memorials or museums.

the government has

- Defunded memorial sites nationwide and laid off half the staff at the [eight sites](#) under the National Human Rights Secretariat, like [ESMA](#).
- Halted infrastructure works, archaeological excavations, and conservation tasks at sites that serve as judicial evidence.
- Allowed [acts glorifying the dictatorship](#) at former concentration camps, now memorial sites like [ESMA](#), and in military facilities.

search

The search for men and women who were kidnapped as children and given new identities requires state efforts commensurate with an ongoing crime: an estimated 300 people still live without knowing their true identity, while their relatives have been searching for almost 50 years.

the government has

- Decided that the Defense and Security ministries shall not hand over the personnel files from the Armed Forces, Police, and Federal Security Forces to the National Commission for the Right to Identity (CoNaDI) in administrative investigations into the fate of children abducted from their families.
- Enabled by law the modification of the National Genetic Data Bank and the elimination of the CoNaDI and its Specialized Investigation Unit.

reparations

Economic reparations to victims of the dictatorship are part of the international obligations the state has upheld as public policy since 1992. They have legislative support, have spanned different governments, and the judiciary is involved in their implementation.

the government has

- Ordered a comprehensive audit of all requests under the laws of patrimonial reparation for victims of state terrorism and suspended payments until it is completed.
- Fired sixteen workers in the Reparatory Laws area of the National Human Rights Secretariat.

The construction of memory, truth, and justice began while the crimes were still being committed. It was social organization that first demanded an end to terror and later called for investigation, sanctions, and reparations.

Translating these demands into public policies has been a continuous effort over the 40 years of Argentine democracy. Many of these actions can only be carried out by the state: recovering the identity of kidnapped children, now adults; judicial investigation of repressive structures; and opening archives.

Suspending these policies will cause incalculable damage. The re-legitimization of state terrorism seeks to enable current repression; its consequences are also immeasurable.